CHAPTER XX: WORLD WAR II

A. The Presidio and Fort Scott, 1940-1941

Following "the war to end wars," Americans turned their backs to Europe and the U.S. Senate rejected both the Treaty of Versailles and the League of Nations. By the mid-1930s, however, the Army had increased its strength slightly and had reorganized its command structure. Events elsewhere dramatized the instability of nations in both Europe and Asia. In 1931 Japan seized Manchuria, less than ten years after it withdrew from Siberia. Italy invaded Ethiopia in 1935. A year later Spain felt the wounds of civil war. Japan's ambitions became clear in 1937 when it invaded China. In 1938 Germany annexed Austria and it seized Czechoslovakia a year later. Then, in September 1939, Germany invaded Poland bringing total war to Europe and the British and French empires. Large numbers of Japanese troops moved into French Indochina (Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia) in 1941. American neutrality, already severely eroded through aid to Great Britain, was shattered on December 7, 1941, when Japanese air power attacked the Hawaiian and Philippine islands.

Back in December 1939 the War Department ordered the newly promoted Lt. Gen. John L. DeWitt to take command of the Ninth Corps Area and Fourth Army at the Presidio of San Francisco. Born in Nebraska in 1880, DeWitt entered the Army with the rank of 2d lieutenant in 1898, assigned to the infantry. His career followed the same path as for most young officers – three tours in the Philippines, then France in World War I. From 1930 to 1934 he served as the Army's quartermaster general, leaving that assignment with the rank of brigadier general. Major General DeWitt served as commandant of the Army War College, Washington, D.C., in 1937-1939.[1]

From his offices in the former cavalry barracks (35), DeWitt carried out his duties as commander of army ground and air forces in the western states. Although a paper organization at first, Fourth Army became more and more an operational outfit in 1940. That spring the U.S. Army undertook "the first genuine corps and army training maneuvers in American military history." The exercise involved 70,000 troops. DeWitt led the Fourth Army on extensive maneuvers at Fort Lewis, Washington, and Camp Ripley, Minnesota. The principal units involved included the Third and Sixth divisions of the Regular Army and

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1. War Department, General Orders 10, December 5, 1939; *Webster's Military Biographies*.

the Thirty-fourth, Thirty-fifth, Fortieth, and Forty-first divisions of the National Guard. Earlier, the Third Division had sailed 2,000 miles in six transports off California practicing landing techniques and convoy regulations in association with the U.S. Navy.[2]

The Congress greatly increased army appropriations. National Guardsmen were inducted into active duty in September 1940 and the Army called up the Organized Reserves for one year's active duty. The Selective Service and Training Act resulted in the nation's first peacetime draft. In October 1940 DeWitt's Fourth Army assumed command of ground forces in the western states, while his Ninth Corps Area became an administrative and service organization. He filled Fourth Army's staff positions with personnel largely from Ninth Corps Area headquarters. It appears that it did not take long for staff offices to occupy one of the new 250-man barracks, most likely building 39.[3]

An inspector general undertook the required annual inspection of the Presidio in the summer of 1941. He noted that in the past year the Army's Construction Division had built a large number of "cantonment-type" buildings on the post. Even so, the 30th Infantry's brick barracks had become crowded. Worse, the 30th's training suffered because the regiment had to furnish soldiers for guard duty, police calls, post fatigue, and kitchen police in the growing establishment. He may not have known that the 30th Infantry soon would leave the Presidio to join its parent organization, the Third Division, at Fort Lewis, Washington.

He spent considerable time checking out the golf course noting that a civilian club operated the well-maintained, excellent eighteen-hole course. While civilians paid $13.12 a month to play, officers and their families paid only $4.40. Even this amount was excessive for junior officers and the inspector urged that arrangements be made "so that all military may be entitled to the recreational facilities of the golf course upon payment of reasonable fees." He was reminded that higher headquarters had "established the policy that the use of the golf course be limited to officers."[4]

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2. Matloff, ed., *American Military History*, p. 418.

3. *Ibid*., 419-420; Jack B. Beardwood, *History of the Fourth Army*. U.S. Army Ground Forces Study 18 (Historical Section, Army Ground Forces, 1946), p. 2

4. H.W. James, Annual Inspection, Fiscal Year 1941, GCGF 1941, OQMG, RG 92, NA, and accompanying papers.

The School for Bakers and Cooks continued to produce skilled personnel. It was now one of twelve in the Army. Seventy-five soldiers composed a typical class and they studied such subjects as dietetics, sanitation, and quality food preparation. The Presidio produced 2,000 loaves of bread daily, sufficient for all the Bay Area posts. In summers the students operated messes at Fort Ord for the ROTC. Connected to the school, a motorized field bakery company could provide bread for 20,000 men.[5]

As the year 1940 progressed only a small amount of new construction got underway. To the rear of the brick barracks, 100, two machine gun sheds (117 and 118) were constructed. Three wood frame garages of four- and six-vehicle capacity (44,47, 48) were built to the rear of the buildings on Moraga Avenue in 1940, as was a small storage building (46). Another five-vehicle garage (113) for noncommissioned officers was erected to the west of the brick barracks, 102. The quartermaster erected a small structure (108) for storage and an electrical shop west of the brick barracks, 104. Off Halleck Street, east of storehouse 223, a small flammable storage structure (224) was put up in 1940. Also at the main post a comfort station to the rear of the old branch post exchange at the terminus of the streetcar line earned its name. The mechanized army of 1940 required vehicle sheds and four of these (949, 950, 973, 974) were built west of Crissy Field.

A major construction project got underway at the Presidio on November 1, 1940. The construction quartermaster, Capt. J.H. Veal, described these mobilization-type buildings that became ubiquitous at military installations throughout the United States in World War II.[6] Five locations on the reservation were selected for the project: Area A – on the bay front between Marine Drive and Mason Street, east of Crissy Field. Area B – on the bay front between Marine Drive and Mason Street, west of Crissy Field. Area C – between Mason Street and the Golden Gate Bridge approach road (U.S. 101). Area D – west of Halleck Street and south of the Golden Gate Bridge approach road. And Area E – between Graham Street and Funston Avenue, facing on Moraga Avenue.

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5. WPA, "The Army at the Golden Gate," p. 71, in Gordon Chappell, ed. NPS, *The Presidio of San Francisco 1776-1976, A Collection of Historical Source Materials* (San Francisco, 1976), p. 275.

6. J.H. Veal, October 28, 1941, Completion Report on Temporary Housing at the Presidio, Completion Reports, PSF, OCE, RG 77, NA. By May 1940 the U.S. Army had prepared 300 standard plans for this type of construction - for barracks, mess halls, storehouses, post exchanges, chapels, theaters, etc. The evolution of these "700 series drawings" is discussed in D. Colt Denfeld, "How World War II Bases Were Built Fast - and Good," *Periodical Journal of the Council on America's Military Past (April 1991), pp. 24-31.*

Together the buildings consisted of two bachelor officers' quarters, one with fifteen rooms, the other with twenty-five rooms; twenty-four 63-man barracks, two story, balloon frame; four day rooms; four 250-man mess halls; six single story storehouses having company administration; two post exchanges; two warehouses; and one administration building.

Area A contained ten barracks, two dayrooms, administration building, post exchange, three storehouses (supply rooms and orderly rooms), and two mess halls built in 1940-1941. These buildings later received numbers between 232 and 262. None was extant in 1994. A few months later the quartermaster made an addition of five barracks, two storerooms, mess hall, and recreation building east of Area A. These were numbered 271 through 278. Eight more buildings were added to Area A in 1942. By the end of 1942 Letterman General Hospital took over all of Area A and it became a part of Letterman's Crissy Field Annex.

In January 1945 the U.S. Army set aside four of the buildings in the addition to Area A as a prisoner of war compound – 273, 274, 275, and 276. As of 1945 more than 300,000 Germans, 50,000 Italians, and 4,000 Japanese were held as prisoners of war in the continental United States and Hawaii. After the fall of Italy in 1943 Italian prisoners were declared to be "co-belligerent." They could not be released but the United States organized the majority of them into service units and employed them on military reservations. At San Francisco the 141st Italian Quartermaster Service Company, freed from the constraints of prisoner of war camps, took up duties at the Presidio of San Francisco.

Italian prisoners who remained "uncooperative" remained behind barbed wire. On January 4, 1945, 178 Italian prisoners of this class arrived at the Presidio for the purpose of furnishing labor to Letterman General Hospital. The four buildings formed a compound 125 feet wide by 250 feet long. A sixteen-strand barbed wire fence eight feet high enclosed the area. Buildings 273 and 276 served as barracks for the men. Building 274 became the prisoners' camp headquarters, supply room, and day room, while building 275 served as a kitchen and mess hall. The camp was organized along military lines. American personnel staffed the Headquarters Section and the Guard Section – three officers and twenty-two enlisted men. The prisoners' organization consisted of the Camp Overhead and Prisoner of War Labor – 174 (sic) men.

These Italian prisoners departed San Francisco on December 15, 1945, and on the same day 150 German prisoners of war occupied the compound. The Germans left the Presidio on June 21, 1946, for the New York Port of Embarkation. The Army inactivated the camp and sent its records to the Ninth Service Command, Fort Douglas, Utah. Only buildings 274 and 275 remained extant in 1994.[7]

Area B west of Crissy Field contained ten barracks, two dayrooms, warehouse, post exchange, three storehouses (supply and orderly rooms), and two mess halls. Later numbered 901 through 919 they too became a part of Letterman's Crissy Field Annex during the war. Toward the end of the war they housed the Hospital Train Unit as well as Letterman troops. All nineteen structures remained extant as of 1994.[8]

Captain Veal did not further describe the buildings in the other three areas. A map of the Presidio prepared in 1975 showed two barracks (607 and 608) for enlisted women in Area C and additional barracks for enlisted women in Area D. None of these buildings remain, both areas having been developed for other purposes. The two BOQs (40 and 41) remained standing in Area E in 1994.[9]

Veal reported the initial construction complete on February 1, 1941, at a total cost of $298,270, with a final payment made to the Meyer Construction Company, San Francisco, on March 10. A separate contract for painting the buildings called for gray color from the ground to the water table, including stairs, platforms, handrails, and doors; cream color to all other parts of the buildings, including sash, sash trim, and door trim.[10]

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7. Letterman General Hospital, Annual Reports, 1945-1946; Arnold P. Krammer, "German Prisoners of War in the United States," *Military Affairs*, 40: 68-72; *Army and Navy Journal*, September 15, 1945. San Franciscan Eugene De Martini describes his experiences as a lad building friendships with the Italians of the 141st Service Company at the Presidio. De Martini, "Italian Prisoners of War In America, 1942-1946," *Communique* (Fort Point and Presidio Historical Association, Fall 1992), p. 3. During World War II there were 75 Italian Service organizations and 15 prisoner of war camps in the western states. Ninth Service Command . . . Station List, February 1, 1945.

8. Letterman's adaptive use of the structures in Areas A and B during the war is discussed in the appendix concerning the general hospital.

9. The barracks in Areas C and D would not have housed women soldiers until 1942 when the first women enlisted. The Women's Army Corps (WAC) did not gain full legal military status until 1943.

10. J.H. Veal, Completion Report, October 28, 1941, OCE, RG 77, NA. The structures added later to Area A, included two portions of a covered corridor (249 and 250) that connected the buildings when the area served as an annex to Letterman.

Also built in 1941 were three warehouses, 100 feet by 266 feet, 60 feet by 250 feet, and 60 feet by 195 feet; they stood in the Lower Presidio north of the railroad track. Later numbered 251 and 252 (two having been joined) they served as a commissary. The Army demolished them circa 1992.

Additional wartime construction included an additional administration building (37), a large, two story, E-shaped building that served as an annex to Ninth Corps Area headquarters just to the east. Completed July 8, 1941, it cost $56,320. The post engineers area at the east end of the Lower Presidio acquired several buildings during the war: administration building (280) in 1941; shop building (282) in 1942; electrical shop (284) in 1941; paint and sign shop (285) in 1942; and carpenter shop (288) and shop building (290) both in 1943.[11]

Also in the Lower Presidio, in the vicinity of Crissy Field runway, a fire station was erected in 1943. West of the U.S. Coast Guard Station engineers erected a wood frame storehouse (938), also a small flammable storehouse (976) at the submarine mine depot. A mobilization-type barracks (3) erected next to the post hospital in 1942 served for physical examinations of incoming personnel. Still other construction included a pump house (311) at the main reservoir on Presidio Hill, an electrical substation (565) near the Lombard gate, and a tennis court (582) in the former East Cantonment. On Presidio Hill, too, the Army constructed Transmitter Station WVY in March 1942. The two story, concrete building, measuring 34 feet by 100 feet with a 33 feet by 37 feet wing, cost $52,560.

In the fall of 1941 the American Red Cross built a permanent building (97) in which to conduct its general welfare services for enlisted men. The Spanish Colonial Revival facility, costing $15,000, contained offices, lecture room, and staff quarters. Red crosses embedded in the concrete chimney could be seen from all directions. The construction quartermaster described the structure as "an attractive red tiled roofed, one story white stucco building, with its deep revealed windows, shed-like type portico . . . ninety-one feet wide and forty-six feet deep."[12]

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11. All military construction passed from the Quartermaster Corps to the Corps of Engineers in December 1941, no doubt causing this construction in the post engineers area.

12. Zone Construction Quartermaster, Public Relations Release, October 27, 1941; Harrison *Physical History Report*, vol. 3. Harrison describes the building as "a handsome little hacienda."

Perhaps the most outstanding architecture of wartime construction was found in two handsome quarters the engineers erected for general officers. Funded by the Golden Gate Bridge District as replacements for quarters destroyed during bridge construction, Quarters 1 stood on a knoll off Simonds Loop in the former East Cantonment area, and Quarters 1332 was located in a secluded area near officers' row at Fort Winfield Scott. General DeWitt was the last commanding general to occupy the historic residence at Fort Mason. His successor, Lt. Gen. Delos C. Emmons, became the first occupant of Quarters 1, while the commanding general of the Ninth Coast Artillery District occupied 1332. A garage (517) was erected adjacent to Emmons' residence.[13]

Considerable construction activity occurred at Fort Winfield Scott in 1941 and 1942. In the post's industrial area the Army erected a gas station (1221), post exchange storehouse (1225), post office (1237), small office building (1239), post exchange utility warehouse (1241), and three quartermaster storehouses (1242, 1243, and 1244). Four four-vehicle garages off Appleton Street were built for the use of noncommissioned officers; six additional garages were constructed for officers living on Kobbe Avenue. A double tennis court (1333) was laid out next to the officers' club. Because of the increase in the garrison's strength a one story, wood frame, L-shaped structure (1347) was erected for quarters for bachelor officers, later for bachelor noncommissioned officers (BEQ).

In the coast artillery industrial area near Dynamite Battery three structures were added in 1942: two ordnance repair shops (1355 and 1357) and a small boiler house (1359). Northeast of Dynamite Battery an indoor shooting range occupied building (1369). To the north of the post in the area first laid out as a drill field and, later, a cantonment in World War I, the quartermaster erected a theater (1387) and a chapel (1389), both mobilization-type buildings, in 1941. West of the chapel a small building (1390), built at the same time, was said to be a nursery.[14] South of the post, in the vicinity of Battery McKinnon-Stotsenberg, a radio station (1444), radio transmitter building (1450), and a generator building (1451), built 1941-1943, completed wartime construction at the fort.[15]

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13. National Park Service, *Presidio of San Francisco, National Register of Historic Places, Registration Forms* (1993), p. 7-166.

14. This building probably had other uses after December 7, 1941.

15. National Park Service, National Register, Registration Forms: *The Star Presidian*, September 12, 1958.

B. Western Defense Command

When the Fourth Army assumed command of ground forces in October 1940, the organizations initially under DeWitt's control were:

a. IX Corps, Maj. Gen. Kenyon A. Joyce – the 3rd and 41st Divisions.
b. III Corps, Maj. Gen. Walter K. Wilson – the 7th and 40th Divisions.
c. Ninth Coast Artillery District, Brig. Gen. Henry T. Burgin – the Harbor Defenses of Puget Sound, Columbia River, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego. Headquarters at Fort Winfield Scott.

In the summer of 1941 the U.S. Army again held maneuvers, this time nation-wide. The first to begin was Fourth Army. Brig. Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell commanded the Red force (the Seventh Division, which he had activated at Fort Ord) and attacked northward from Los Angeles. Two divisions, the Blue force, defended San Francisco. The "Battle of California" lasted five weeks and climaxed at the Hunter Liggett Military Reservation 120 miles south of Monterey. Fortunately for San Francisco, the Blue force won. By December 1941 the Fourth Army had completed plans for the defense of the West Coast and Alaska.[16]

When Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, General DeWitt put on a third hat when he took command of the Western Defense Command (WDC), one of four strategic areas into which the War Department had divided the United States. Four days later the Western Defense Command became a theater of operations inasmuch as a Japanese attack on the West Coast appeared imminent. Under the Western Defense command DeWitt now commanded the Fourth Army, Ninth Corps Area, and the Second and Fourth Air Forces. Geographically, the command included California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Idaho, Arizona, Utah, Montana, and the territory of Alaska.[17]

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16. Barbara W. Tuchman, *Stilwell and the American Experience in China, 1911-45* (New York: Macmillan, 1971), p. 225; Beardwood, *Fourth Army*, pp. 2-3. Ninth Corps Area and IX Corps should not be confused. Ninth Corps Area was a geographical command. IX Corps was a field force of combat soldiers.

17. Ninth Corps Area headquarters moved to Fort Douglas, Utah, in April 1942, where it became the Ninth Service Command, administering and supplying the Western Defense Command areas, including the Presidio of San Francisco. In 1943, about the time the Western Defense Command ceased to be a theater of operations, the Fourth Army headquarters separated from the WDC and moved to San Jose, California. In January 1944 it moved to Fort Sam Houston, Texas, where it trained major units for overseas combat duty. Stewart and Erwin, p. 73; Beardwood, *Fourth Army*, pp. 4-6; Fort Point and Presidio Historical Association, "Organization of the U.S. Army in California and the West."

General DeWitt activated the Western Defense Command immediately upon learning of the Japanese attack. The West Coast was divided into geographical sectors and the Northern California Sector came under the commanding general of the 7th Division at Fort Ord. On May 1, 1942, Maj. Gen. Walter K. Wilson took command of the sector and established his command post at the Presidio. The Oregon-California state line became the northern boundary of the sector and the Santa Maria River marked the southern boundary.

A great deal of uncertainty marked by a deluge of false rumors overwhelmed the Western Defense Command in the early days of the war. Fourth Army notified General Stilwell, commanding the Southern California Sector, on December 11, that the Japanese fleet was 164 miles off San Francisco and ordered a general alert. Two days later Stilwell learned that an air attack on Los Angeles was imminent. By the time Stilwell transferred to Washington on Christmas Day he had learned to discount the "jitters" emanating from San Francisco.[18]

A senior quartermaster officer visited the Presidio in January 1942. He found the main problem concerning quartermaster affairs was the lack of personnel and the constant shifting of those soldiers so assigned. He said that the reservation had become a staging area as well as having a garrison. The officers did not know from day to day what units would arrive or depart and as a result had to operate on a twenty-four hour basis to issue food, clothing, and the like.[19]

Matters settled down and the Northern California Sector defined its mission as defending the area against enemy attack by land, sea, or air internally (anti-sabotage) or externally. It was responsible for the tactical protection of the forts and harbors and for the joint planning with the Twelfth Naval District. The initial

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18. Tuchman, *Stilwell*, p. 231. During the war the Japanese made eight attacks on allied shipping off the Northern California Sector. The nearest to San Francisco was about 100 miles, WDC, "Historical Record," p. 42. Illustrative of the confusion and uncertainties of those first days after the attack are the reminiscences of a National Guard captain whose unit had arrived at San Francisco on a training mission just before the Japanese air raid. In the days following, his battery had the task of guarding the Golden Gate Bridge. He established battery headquarters at either Battery Lancaster or Battery Cranston. His battery was supposed to be armed with 37mm anticraft and .50 cal. machine guns, but could muster only the lighter, 30 cal. machine guns. Harry Freeman, formerly a captain commanding Battery F, 216th [Minnesota] Regiment, CAC, interview, January 15, 1994, with Brett Bankie, NPS. A more graphic account of the situation in San Francisco has been captured by Richard R. Lingeman, *Don't You Know There's a War On?* (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1970), pp. 25-27.

19. D.H. Cowles, January 19 1942, to QMG, GCGF, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

plans called for observation posts, lookout stations, and beach patrols involving the Army, Navy, and Coast Guard, also for army motor reconnaissance patrols along coastal roads. Field Artillery units took up positions to cover the most suitable landing beaches and 75mm guns covered gaps between coast artillery units. Mobile and semi-mobile coast artillery units augmented the Harbor Defenses of San Francisco and protected Drakes Bay, Monterey Bay, Esterro Bay, and San Luis Obispo Bay. No fewer than elements of eleven armored and infantry divisions reinforced the North California Sector at various times.[20]

Duty at the isolated coast artillery fire control stations and searchlights for days on end with twelve-hour tours of duty and little to break the monotony of watching, watching, always on the alert, soon had a deleterious effect on morale. A coast artillery officer wrote, "After this process has been extended over the many months of constant field duty since Pearl Harbor, it frays a man's nerves. Quite understandably, morale takes a nose dive." To counter the negatives effects of the grueling duties, the coast artillery at Fort Scott instigated a Special Training Program. Each week two batteries from Fort Scott's several sub-posts came to the post and for seven days enjoyed the luxuries of a regular barracks, good hot chow, and not having to stand guard or pull fatigue details. The week involved close-order drill, bayonet practice, small arms target practice, athletics, infantry tactics, formal retreat parades, and running an obstacle course named "Little David" on Fort Scott's parade ground. On Saturday morning the men completed a ten-mile hike. The rest of the weekend was time out for relaxation with passes to the city. The coast artillery considered the training program to be a great success and a definite morale builder. The men returned to their outposts and duty stations with a renewed esprit de corps.[21]

At the Presidio a mixture of combat and service units formed the garrison throughout the war years. The infantry and cavalry (motorized) elements provided sentries and guards for the reservation and defense plants in the San Francisco area. The service command units (SCU) provided their expertise to the whole

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20. U.S. Army, Western Defense Command, "Historical Record - Northern California Sector . . . 1 May 1942 - September 1945," microfilm, Library of Congress. To this point in the study army divisions have been identified as simply "7th Division." Hereinafter they will be identified as to type, "7th Infantry Division."

21. Roger W. Chickering, "Morale? It's Wonderful!," *Coast Artillery Journal* (September-October, 1942), pp. 46-48. Brian B. Chin, *Artillery at the Golden Gate, The Harbor Defenses of San Francisco in World War II* (Missoula: Pictorial Histories, 1994) gives the definitive history of the coast artillerymen in the first days of the war at San Francisco's harbor defenses. He captures the boredom and tediousness of duty in an isolated fire control station far from the comforts of barracks life.

sector:

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Northern California Sector,
Pacific Coastal Frontier, April 20 – November 6, 1942
53d Infantry Regiment, May 1 – June 22, 1942
184th Infantry Regiment, June 15, 1942 - January 20, 1943
122d Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop, June 21, 1944 – August 28, 1945
Band, 53d Infantry Regiment, May 1 – July 1, 1942
Station Complement SCU 1927
SCU 1900, Headquarters, Ninth Service Command Detachment
Archives Section, Adjutant General
Advance Echelon, Judge Advocate
NCS Library Depot
SC Signal Officer
SC Veterinarian
SCU 1991, Signal Maintenance and Construction
SCU 1939, Permanent Boards
Area Civilian Personnel Unit
Headquarters, Bakers and Cooks School (SCU 1990)
Sub-school, Bakers and Cooks
Bomb Reconnaissance and Reporting School
Central Dental Laboratory
San Francisco National Cemetery Detachment
Golden Gate National Cemetery Detachment
Post Photographic Library
Quartermaster Laundry Detachment (1148 Harrison Street)
Signal Corps Photographic Library
Headquarters, Western Defense Command
SCU 1960 Hospital Train unit
Training Film Center Library
Vicinity Maintenance Engineer
Office of the Provost Marshal General (The Japanese-American Branch)
64th Ordnance Bomb Disposal Squad
121st Ordnance Maintenance Company
141st Italian Quartermaster Service Company

In 1941 Brig. Gen. Edward A. Stockton, Jr., commanded the Harbor Defenses of San Francisco with his headquarters at Fort Winfield Scott. He held responsibility for the harbor defenses at Forts Scott, Baker, Barry, Miley, Funston, and Cronkhite. Under his command were Col. Karl F. Baldwin commander of the 6th Coast Artillery Regiment and Col. F.H. Holden commanding the 2d Battalion, 18th Coast Artillery Regiment, both stationed at Fort Winfield Scott. (The batteries of both units were distributed among the coastal forts.) During the weeks following Pearl Harbor many reports came in of enemy ships and submarines off San Francisco. The official history later noted that "none of these reports were verified

from other sources although the information appeared to be very positive at the time."

Military organizations assigned to Fort Winfield Scott during World War II included:

Station Complement SCU 1932 (Harbor Defenses of San Francisco)
Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, HDSF, May 1, 1942 -
August 31, 1945, assigned to the Harbor Entrance Control Post (HECP, Army)
6th Coast Artillery Regiment (HD) (Type C), May 1, 1942 -
October 18, 1944 (Headquarters and Headquarters Battery;
Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion; Batteries A, B, D, and N)
6th Coast Artillery Battalion, October `18, 1944 – August 31, 1945
Batteries L and M, 6th Coast Artillery, May 1, 1942 – May 4, 1944
Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 18th Coast Artillery
Regiment, October 4, 1943 – May 5, 1944
67th Coast Artillery Battalion, October 18, 1944 –
September 15, 1945 (Headquarters Detachment and Battery B)
130th Coast Artillery Battalion (AA) (Gun) (5M), May 1, 1942 – May 4, 1994
(Headquarters Battery, Antiaircraft Command Post)
174th Coast Artillery Battalion, October 18, 1944 –
August 31, 1945 (Battery A)
266th Separate Coast Artillery Battalion, April 20, 1942 – November 6, 1942
Battery A, Harbor Defenses of San Francisco, October 18, 1944 – August 31, 1945
Battery G, 48th Coast Artillery, May 7, – November 6, 1942
U.S. Army Mine Planter *Gen. Samuel M. Mills*, November 15, 1942 –
November 23, 1942
U.S. Army Mine Planter *Lt. Col. Ellery W. Niles*, May 1, 1942 – November 23, 1942
4th Coast Artillery Mine Planter (CAMP) Battery, November 23, 1942 –
August 31, 1945
11th CAMP Battery, November 23, 1942 – ?
21st CAMP Battery, July 10, 1943 – August 31, 1945
Band, 6th Coast Artillery Regiment, May 1, 1942 – May 21, 1944
72d AGF Band, May 24, 1944 – November 27, 1944.[22]

On December 18, 1942, the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington established two Joint Operations Centers within the Western Defense Command –

1. At San Diego composed of the Western Defense Command, Southern California Sector, Fourth Air Force, Western Sea Frontier, and Eleventh Naval District.

2. At San Francisco consisting of the Western Defense Command, Northern California

22. *Ibid*; Ninth Service Command, Station List, Army Service Forces, February 1, 1945.

> Sector, Fourth Air Force, Western Sea Frontier, and Twelfth Naval District. This San Francisco Joint Operations Center was located in the federal office building, with an alternate location at Fourth Air Force headquarters, 180 New Montgomery Street. The center had three sections that operated twenty-four hours a day: Army Ground Section, Army Air Section, and Navy Section.

The Harbor Defenses of San Francisco (HDSF) included the forts and other military installations over a fifty-mile range from Point Reyes to Pillar Point. Forts Baker, Barry, Cronkhite, Miley, and Funston all were sub-posts under Fort Winfield Scott. Brigadier General Stockton transferred from Fort Scott in February 1942 and was succeeded by Brig. Gen. Ralph E. Haines. In February 1944 Haines succeeded Maj. Gen. Wilson as commander of the Northern California Sector. HDSF's mission involved protecting harbor facilities and shipping in San Francisco harbor from enemy naval gunfire, insuring freedom of movement to friendly shipping in entering or leaving the harbor, denying to enemy ships access to the harbor, and supporting the defense against landing attacks. In December 1941 two infantry battalions, one on either side of the Golden Gate augmented the beach defenses by constructing entanglements, slit trenches, and clearing fields of fire for automatic weapons.

Extremely bad weather in January and February 1942 delayed the complete installation of the submarine mine project. Heavy seas grounded and sank mine vessel L-74. The alert status of the defenses was intensified prior to the Battle of Midway, June 1942, a critical point in the war and when an invasion of Alaska was anticipated. A month later a Navy blimp reported an enemy mine-laying submarine at the west end of the main channel. Sweeping operations closed the channel for five hours. This channel had to close again in 1943 when SS *Manual Kapanosa* loaded with dynamite, sank in that area.

In the early months of the war the Western Defense Command took active measures against sabotage at all installations. In the end no sabotage activities occurred although a few cases of malicious mischief were reported.

Late in 1944 Japan began a new offensive against North America by launching balloon-borne incendiaries and anti-personnel bombs from Japan, carried by wind currents to the United States and Canada. An American patrol boat spotted the first evidence – a balloon having a Japanese radio transmitter – off San Pedro, California, in November. The United States censored all mention of this new weapon to prevent panic and to keep Japan in ignorance of the success of its project. Not until May 1945 when a woman and five children were killed by a balloon bomb in Lakeview, Oregon, did the

government publicize the weapon. Of the 285 balloon incidents in the United States and Canada, twenty occurred in California.[23]

During the Battle of Midway in May 1942, a separate Japanese task force occupied Alaska's Aleutian islands of Attu and Kiska. Having broken Japanese codes the Western Defense Command was alert to these attacks. At that time no American troops occupied Attu and only the U.S. Navy's ten-man weather station had established itself on Kiska. The 4th Infantry Regiment guarded the Alaskan mainland. For the next year the Western Defense Command directed its attention to the recovery of the two Aleutian islands and the overall defenses of Alaska. While the battle for Attu (May 1943) was a U.S. Navy operation, the Western Defense Command had been responsible for the training and preparedness of the Seventh Infantry Division at Fort Ord, the principal landing force in the recapture of the two islands. When the battle for Attu became bogged down, Alaska's 4th Infantry Regiment was thrown into the awesome fray. By May 30 the American Army had secured Attu. In August a combined American-Canadian force regained Kiska, which the Japanese had evacuated. This Aleutian campaign, the only World War II battle on the North American continent, was the Western Defense Command's principal army and army air corps combat operations during the war.[24]

The West Coast, California particularly, had a long history of anti-Japanese activity. In 1907 the United States restricted Japanese immigration (Gentlemen's Agreement) and prohibited it entirely in 1924. In 1913 California and other states prohibited Japanese immigrants from owning land. After World War I, wherein Japan had favored the Allies, anti-Japanese sentiment grew increasingly shrill. Then the smashing success of the Japanese surprise attack on the Pacific fleet and Oahu's airfields in December caused the hatred to burst into flame.

Immediately after the attack Frank Knox, the U.S. Secretary of the Navy, visited Hawaii to assess the damage. Upon his return to the mainland Knox announced that the Japanese population in Hawaii had given aid and support to the enemy through sabotage and fifth-column activity. Whatever Knox's reasons

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23. U.S. Army, WDC, "Historical Record," p. 29; Robert C. Mikesh, *Japan's World War II Balloon Bomb Attack on North America* (Washington: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1973), pp. 2, 25-27, and 77.

24. Brian Garfield, *The Thousand-Mile War, World War II in Alaska and the Aleutians* (New York: Bantam Books, 1982). After its experiences in the Aleutians, the Seventh Infantry Division went on to a distinguished battle record including Okinawa, "the Last Battle."

for making this statement, history has proven it a falsehood. At that time, however, it was further exaggerated by Californian politicians and the press. General DeWitt, responsible for security within the Western Defense Command, reached the conclusion that ethnic Japanese were a security risk. In February 1942 he wrote to the Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson recommending their exclusion from the West Coast, "The Japanese race is an enemy race and while many second and third generation Japanese born on United States soil, possessed of United States citizenship, have become "Americanized," the racial strains are undiluted." He considered the 112,000 persons of Japanese descent on the West Coast to be potential enemies, "The very fact that no sabotage has taken place to date is a disturbing and confirming indication that such action will be taken."[25]

Stimson, apparently agreeing with DeWitt's conclusions, recommended to President Franklin D. Roosevelt that the Japanese be excluded from the West Coast. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942, compelling both American citizens and alien residents of Japanese ancestry to leave the Pacific Slope because of military necessity in wartime. General DeWitt signed Public Proclamation No. 1 on March 2 creating military areas and zones on the coast from which people might be excluded. On March 24 another proclamation imposed a curfew on these people. The official history of the Western Defense Command recorded that DeWitt's headquarters ordered and carried out the evacuation of persons of Japanese ancestry over the period April 2 – October 30, 1942.

The U.S. Army carried out the evacuation in stages:

1. Evacuation from Military Area 1 from homes to assembly centers.

2. Evacuation from Military Area 1 from homes to War Relocation Authority Projects (camps in interior United States).

3. Evacuation from Military Area 2 from homes to War Relocation Authority Projects.

4. Evacuation from Assembly Centers to War Relocation Authority Projects.[26]

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25. Report of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, *Personal Justice Denied* (Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1982), pp. 4-6 and 28-36; John Costello, *The Pacific War* (New York: Quill, 1982), pp. 11, 27, 32-33, and 211-212. For a detailed discussion of conditions in Hawaii prior to December 1941, see Gordon W. Prange, *At Dawn We Slept* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1981).

26. U.S. Army, WDC, "Historical Record," pp. 25-29. Military Area 1: western halves of Washington, Oregon, and California, and the southern half of Arizona. Military Area 2: the remaining portions of those states. Of the fifteen assembly centers, twelve of them were in California. The ten relocation projects or camps: Manzanar and Tule Lake in California, Poston and Gila in Arizona, Minidoka in Idaho, Heart

Before he transferred from the Presidio of San Francisco to become commandant of the Army and Navy War College in 1943, General DeWitt in an "off-the-record" news conference, voiced his concern about the War Department enlisting Nisei soldiers, "the Japanese Government finding out we are bringing these men in, it is the ideal place to infiltrate men in uniform . . . [a] Jap is a Jap. The War Department says that a Jap-American soldier is not a Jap; he is American. . . . I have the Jap situation to take care of and I'm going to do it."[27] Time would prove that DeWitt's conclusions concerning Japanese Americans were prejudiced by the times and the place. As he wrote, Japanese American soldiers at the Presidio prepared to serve the nation with outstanding success in military intelligence in the war in the Pacific. Ironically, while the general directed the evacuation of Japanese Americans from their homes, Nisei would soon demonstrate the magnificence of the Japanese American soldier's combat record in Europe.

Until his departure DeWitt remained adamant against any return of Japanese-Americans to the West Coast. Not so, his successor, Lt. Gen. Delos C. Emmons. In 1944 Emmons began allowing the return of a limited number of Japanese to the coastal states. To prevent Californians exacting demands or creating violence against the returnees the commander of the Northern California Sector was directed to take precautions and was given a battalion of military police to help keep order.[28]

(..continued)
Mountain in Wyoming, Granada in Colorado, Topaz in Utah, and Rohwer and Jerome in Arkansas.

27. *Personal Justice Denied*, p. 222; Harrington, *Yankee Samurai*, pp. 144-145.

Issei - an immigrant from Japan
Nisei - first generation of ethnic Japanese born in America
Sansei - second generation
Kibei - Japanese Americans who received part of their education in Japan - three or more years after the age of thirteen

28. *Personal Justice Denied*, pp. 227, 230-231, and 262; U.S. Army, WDC, "Historical Record," p. 14. Delos C. Emmons graduated from West Point in 1909 and was commissioned a lieutenant assigned to the 30th Infantry Regiment. Stationed at the Presidio of San Francisco from 1909 to 1912, he left with the 30th for a tour in Alaska. While still at San Francisco he had the opportunity to associate with other young, promising officers such as the Crissy brothers, Dana and Myron; Frederick Mears, and George Ruhlen, Jr. In 1914 the 30th Infantry returned to the Presidio for a stay of five months before moving on to New York. In 1917 Emmons transferred to the Signal Corps' aviation section. With the rank of major he returned to San Francisco in 1924 to command Crissy Field. In 1934 Lt. Colonel Emmons took charge of the 18th Composite Wing in Hawaii and served as air officer for the Hawaiian Department. By 1939 Maj. General Emmons commanded the General Headquarters Air Force and, in 1941, the Air Force Combat Command. That December he replaced Gen. Walter C. Short as commander of the Hawaiian Department when Short was relieved following the Pearl Harbor debacle. Emmons succeeded DeWitt as commander of the Western Defense Command in September 1943. Less than a year later he took command of the Alaska Department. In 1948 Lt. Gen. Delos Emmons retired from the U.S. Air Force. He died at San Francisco October 5, 1965, aged 77 years. *Webster's American Military Biographies*;

Just after General DeWitt's return to the East Coast, the *Army and Navy Journal* announced that none other than Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox had awarded him the Distinguished Service Medal for exceptionally meritorious and distinguished service as commanding general of the Western Defense Command.[29]

Despite wartime tribulations, military life at the Presidio retained the amenities of garrison society. In 1943 the *Army and Navy Journal* reported that Brig. Gen. and Mrs. Charles Kiel, Fourth Air Force, held a reception in the historic officers' club to celebrate their twenty-fourth wedding anniversary and to announce the engagement of their daughter to an army officer. On another occasion the *Journal* reported that the Stewart Hotel on Geary Street had rooms with baths from $2.50 to $3.50 for one person with a ten percent discount for Army and Navy. The paper also carried advertisements for The Cliff and the Plaza hotels and Kit Carson's restaurant at Geary and Mason.[30]

In 1943 the Presidio opened its first banking facility at the main post. It began as a sub-agency of the Marina office of the American Trust Company. Shortly after the war it changed its name to an office of the American Trust Company. In 1960 the Wells Fargo Bank merged with the American Trust and two years later the Presidio facility became the Wells Fargo Bank. Other banks and two credit unions followed. Sometime early in the war Fort Winfield Scott's buildings acquired a painting project called the "camouflage tone-down." No other description of this change of colors of the fort's white structures has been found. In 1945 the Western Defense Command established a War Dog Reception and Training Center, not on the Presidio reservation but at San Carlos south of San Francisco.[31]

With the defeat of the Japanese navy at the Battle of Midway in June 1942 and the elimination of the Japanese from the Aleutians in August 1943, the War Department terminated the Western Defense

(..continued)

Stephen A. Haller, *The Last Word in Airfields . . . Crissy Field* (San Francisco: National Park Service, 1994), pp. 47 and 116. There is a conflict in dates between these two sources as to when Emmons commanded Crissy Field. The Haller dates are believed to be accurate.

29. *Army and Navy Journal*, November 27, 1943.

30. *Army and Navy Journal*, November 6, 1943 and August 26, 1944.

31. Robert J. Chandler, "Presidio Banking Facility," copy at the Presidio Army Museum; Voucher Files 1942-158 and 1945, Master Plans, Presidio of San Francisco. The war dog center had no known association with the Presidio's pet cemetery.

Command's status as a theater of operations in October 1943. With the departure of Emmons for Alaska, Maj. Gen. Charles H. Bonesteel took command of the Western Defense Command in June 1944. In January 1944 the War and Navy departments announced that the coastal defense installations would be reduced in strength in order to send those personnel to overseas stations. Coast artillerymen now applied their skills to heavy artillery on the battlefields and to antiaircraft artillery. Another sign of the changing times was the sale of 510 army horses on the auction block at the South San Francisco stockyard in March.[32]

C. Military Intelligence Service Language School (MISLS)

In the summer of 1941 an army officer, Maj. Carlisle C. Dusenbury, a former student of the Japanese language, proposed that the military enlist first generation Japanese Americans (Nisei) soldiers in intelligence operations. He and Col. Wallace Moore, whose parents had lived in Japan, together planned the organization of a school to teach Japanese military terminology. Because so many Nisei lived on the West Coast and already some 5,000 were in the Army, they recommended that the Presidio of San Francisco be the site. While General DeWitt's opinion of such an institution under his command has not been determined, the War Department directed the school's establishment in August, provided it with a $2,000 budget, and selected Lt. Col. John Weckerling to supervise it. Weckerling arrived at the Presidio from Panama in August and began the detailed planning.[33]

Weckerling set out to select those Nisei fluent in Japanese to serve as instructors. A survey of 3,700 Nisei, however, showed that only three percent were accomplished linguists. It became apparent that Japanese Americans who had attended school in Japan, "Kibei," would make the best instructors (and students) although the Army tended to distrust the group. Nevertheless, they soon proved their worth. Pfc. (later, Major) John F. Aiso, discovered in a motor pool maintenance battalion but who had a doctorate degree from Harvard University, became the chief instructor. Pfc (later, Lieutenant) Arthur Kaneko, a "Sansei" or second generation Japanese American, also became an instructor. Two civilians,

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32. *Army and Navy Journal*, January 15 and March 18, 1944; Matloff, ed., *American Military History*, p. 463.

33. John Weckerling joined the Army in World War I as an enlisted man. By 1920 he held the commission of first lieutenant in the Regular Army. Following a tour in the Philippines he was sent to Tokyo in 1924 to study the Japanese language. In 1934 he returned to Tokyo as a military attache. John Weckerling, "Japanese Americans Play Vital Role in United States Intelligence Service in World War II" (n.p., n.p., 1946).

Akira Oshida, of Berkeley, and Shigeya Kihara, from Oakland, rounded out the initial teaching staff. These four men prepared the textbooks and classroom exercises, while recruiting continued for the first class of students.[34]

Gene M. Uratsu described his enlisting in that first class. Assigned to the 40th Infantry Division at Camp Roberts, California, he received orders to report to division headquarters. There a captain interviewed the very nervous soldier asking him to translate from a Japanese-language book. The captain then warned Uratsu not to discuss the meeting with anyone. In October 1941 he arrived at the Presidio and was directed to report to Building 640, a former hangar at Crissy Field.[35]

Building 640 had been erected as an air mail hangar in the early 1920s. Despite its having been remodeled into a barracks for college students' ROTC summer camp in 1928, it had become dilapidated by the time the student-soldiers assembled for classes on November 1, 1941. Now the building served as faculty and staff offices, classrooms, and living quarters. Wooden horses and planks formed desks. Discarded theater seats served as chairs. Bunks in the sleeping quarters stood three tiers high. One bright spot was the excellent food prepared by the Presidio's Bakers and Cooks School.[36]

The sixty students found themselves assigned to one of four classes depending on their proficiency in the Japanese language. Two of the men were Caucasians, all the others, Japanese-Americans. Subjects included the organization of Japan's armed forces, military technology including weapons, Japanese military terminology, and so forth. At one point General DeWitt visited the school. He told one of the students to let him know if there was anything he needed.

Six weeks after opening day a Japanese task force attacked Pearl Harbor. The students found the

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34. Weckerling, "Japanese Americans;" Military Intelligence Service Association of Northern California and the National Japanese American Historical Society, *The Pacific War and Peace, Americans of Japanese Ancestry in Military Intelligence Service, 1941 to 1952* (San Francisco, 1991), p. 16; *The MISLS Album, 1946*, pp. 8-9; Harrington, *Yankee Samurai*, pp. 19-20. The Nisei soldiers referred to themselves as "AJAs", Americans of Japanese Ancestry. A superlative, firsthand account of Japanese-Americans in California at this time and of his own involvement with and observations of the language school, see Shigeya Kihara, interview, January 21, 1994, by Stephen A. Haller, NPS, Presidio Oral History Project.

35. Gene M. Uratsu, "Establishment of the U.S. Army Language School, November 1, 1941," *Communique*, 93: 1 and 5.

36. Harrington, *Yankee Samurai*, p. 25; Uratsu, *Communique*, p. 5

following weeks to be a time of confusion. Instruction became intensified and the one-year course was reduced to six months. Many Nisei in the Army were discharged. Because of the intense anti-Japanese attitude in California, students going to town had to go in pairs and to wear their army uniforms.[37]

Toward the end of the six months DeWitt wanted Japanese-speaking Weckerling as his full-time intelligence chief (G-2) and Capt. Kai E. Rasmussen, also a former military attaché in Tokyo, took command of the school, which position he retained until 1946. By the time that first class graduated the number of instructors had increased to eight. Besides the commandant, an adjutant, and three noncommissioned officers completed the administrative staff. Of the sixty original students, forty-three graduated successfully (two of whom had already gone overseas because of their language proficiency). One of these, Masanori Minamoto, meeting with distrust, found himself driving a truck. Not until the battle for Guadalcanal did the Army learn to appreciate his considerable contributions on the battlefield. The two Caucasians received commissions as officers but the Nisei remained enlisted men for the time being. Ten members of the class, all Kibei Nisei, were retained by the school to teach future classes. All the others went to the Pacific Theater of Operations, six of them to Alaska where the Japanese had seized Attu and Kiska islands and five to the Southwest Pacific where General MacArthur waged a campaign on New Guinea. Still others transferred to Fiji and Australia.[38]

Graduates of the First Class, May 1942

Marasu Ariyasu. To New Caledonia
James Fujimura. To Australia, New Guinea, the Philippines
William Hirashima. To Australia, New Guinea, the Philippines, Japan
Yoshio Hotta. To Dutch Harbor, Alaska, then Attu
Gary Kadani. To Australia, the Philippines, Japan
Arthur Kaneko. Instructor in United States. To Tokyo in 1945
David Kato. To Australia, New Guinea, the Philippines
Kazuo Kawaguchi. To Australia, New Guinea
Iwao Kawashiri. To New Caledonia, the Philippines
Kazuo Kozaki. Instructor in United States, then Australia, New Guinea, Japan.
Purple Heart and first Nisei to win Silver Star

37. Harrington, *Yankee Samurai*, pp. 25 and 30; Uratsu, *Communique*, p. 5; Thomas T. Sakanoto, interview, January 19, 1994, by Stephen H. Haller, NPS, Presidio Oral History Project.

38. *Pacific War and Peace*, p. 16; *The MISLS Album*, p. 9; Harrington, *Yankee Samurai*, p. 31; *Fifty Years of Silence, The Untold Story of Japanese American Soldiers in the Pacific Theater, 1941-1952* (Video, the Japanese-American Historical Society, 1993).

Tadashi Kubo & Takashi Kubo. Brothers. To Fiji, Guadalcanal
Isao Kusuda. To New Caledonia, Guadalcanal
Paul Kuyama. To Australia, the Philippines, Japan
Joe Y. Masuda. Instructor in United States, then Japan
M. Matsumoto. To Australia, the Philippines
James Matsumura. Instructor in United States, then to Washington, D.C.
Masami Mayeda. To Dutch Harbor, Alaska, then Attu
Masanori Minamoto. To Tonga before graduation, then Guadalcanal, the Philippines, Japan
Yoshio Mijaoi. With Headquarters Detachment, Camp Savage, Minnesota
Tateshi Miyasaki. To Tonga, Guadalcanal, China
Mac Nagata. To New Caledonia, Guadalcanal
Ichiro Nishida. Instructor in United States
William Nishikawa. To Dutch Harbor, Alaska, then Attu
Morio Nishita. Instructor in United States
Fred Nishitsuji. To Australia, New Guinea, the Philippines
Yoshi Noritake. To New Caledonia
Jack Ohashi. With Headquarters Detachment, Camp Savage, Minnesota
Hiromi Oyama. To Australia, the Philippines, Japan
Kei Kiyoshi Sakamoto. To Bora Bora, Guadalcanal, Australia, the Philippines, Japan
Thomas Sakamoto. Instructor in United States, then Australia, Admiralty islands, the Philippines, Japan. He was on board USS *Missouri* for the Japanese surrender ceremony.
Ryoichi Shinoda. Instructor in United States
Sam Sugemoto. To Dutch Harbor, Alaska, then Attu
Hideo Suyehiro. To Dutch Harbor, Alaska, then Attu
George Taketa. To Australia
James Tanizawa. Instructor in United States
Hideo Tsuyuki. Hospitalized. To Australia 1943, then New Guinea, Hollandia, the Phillipines
Gene Uratsu. Instructor in United States, then Australia, New Guinea, the Philippines, Japan
Steve Yamamoto. To Australia, New Guinea, the Philippines, Japan. Silver Star in the Philippines
Shigeru Yamashita. To New Caledonia, Guadalcanal
E. David Swift. To Australia
Dr. John A. Burden. To Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, China.[39]

Even before the class graduated, the Western Defense command had begun the removal of Americans of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast. The Army determined that the school too should move and in May Washington deactivated the Fourth Army Intelligence School. Rasmusson and the staff transferred to Camp Savage, Minnesota. The War Department placed the new school, the Military Intelligence

39. Harrington, *Yankee Samurai*, pp. 24-43; *The MISLS Album*; M. Gene Uratsu, correspondence, November 1994.

Service Language School (MISLS) directly under itself. Camp Savage proving inadequate, the school moved to Fort Snelling near St. Paul.[40]

In 1944 women (WACs) became students at the Fort Snelling school. The MISLS graduated its last class on June 8, 1946. By then some 6,000 graduates served in the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, and America's allies. Duty assignments included the Joint Intelligence Center, Pacific Ocean Area, Hawaii; the Allied Intelligence and Translation Service at Southwest Pacific Area Headquarters, Brisbane, Australia; the South East Asia Translator and Interrogator Center headquartered at New Delhi, India; the China-Burma-India theater; Far Eastern Air Forces; and the Aleutian campaign. MISLS graduates translated the Japanese battle plans for the great naval battle off the Philippines, including San Bernadino Strait. They participated in the battles for Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Makin Atoll, Attu, Kwajalein, Enewetak, Saipan, Tinian, Guam, Peleliu, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. After Japan's surrender, MISLS graduates served as translators and interrogators at the war crimes trials and in the Army of Occupation's civil affairs branch. Nisei soldiers translated a document found on Guadalcanal that listed all of the imperial naval ships and their call signs and code names.

On Okinawa Nisei linguists interpreted a Japanese map that identified all the enemy artillery positions on the island. On Iwo Jima Terry Takeshi Doi stripped naked to show he had no weapons and entered caves yelling to the Japanese to surrender or be sealed up forever. He won the Silver Star. When Sgt. Frank Hachiya parachuted behind enemy lines in the Philippines, American troops accidentally killed him. Thomas Sakamota went overseas to General MacArthur's headquarters in Brisbane, Australia. When he volunteered for combat duty, he landed on Los Negros Island in the Admiralties in early 1944. Assigned to the brigade intelligence officer, Sakamoto translated enemy documents under difficult conditions. He translated the Japanese commander's attack order just prior to a major assault on American positions on the beachhead. Because of Sakamoto's warning, the Americans were prepared when the attack came and successfully warded off the Japanese in three days of intensive combat. At the conclusion of the battle, he attempted to persuade the Japanese commander to surrender, but without success. The Army awarded Sakamoto the Bronze Star for his contribution to the successful occupation of the Admiralty Islands.

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40. During the early years of the war army personnel studied the Chinese language (Mandrian or Kuo-yii) at the University of California, Berkeley. In 1945 Chinese and Korean classes began at Fort Snelling. When the United States evacuated Japanese-Americans from the West Coast in 1942, the U.S. Navy reluctantly closed its Japanese language school at Monterey.

Although the U.S. Marine Corps apparently did not maintain many records on MIS troops assigned to it, one document has survived from the capture of Kwajalein Atoll in 1944. An American intelligence observer praised the work of the Nisei interpreters, stating they stayed on duty twenty-four hours a day dealing with prisoners of war and translating enemy documents. He recommended that in future operations their number be increased and they each have two armed guards because of the danger of being shot mistakenly.[41]

Not all incidents involved the seriousness of war. On Okinawa Tommy Hamada accidentally discharged his rifle and creased Toshimi Yamada's buttocks with the bullet. Yamada demanded a Purple Heart for his wound. When the medics denied the medal saying that a wound had to be the result of Japanese action, Yamada said, "Well what the hell do you call that guy?" pointing at Tommy.[42]

Although the United States government did not release the records of Nisei in the MIS until 1972, the generals learned to value their work long before. General Stilwell wrote, "They bought an awful hunk of America with their blood." Brig. Gen. Frank Merrill, referring to Burma, said, "As for the value of the Nisei, I couldn't have gotten along without them." Maj. Gen. Charles Willoughby, MacArthur's intelligence chief, said that the work of the MIS Nisei in the Pacific shortened the war by two years.[43]

Following the war the Military Intelligence Service Language School moved from Fort Snelling to the Presidio of Monterey where it was renamed the U.S. Army Language School. Then, in 1963, it was reorganized and became the Defense Language Institute. Twenty-five languages formed the curriculum. In 1980 the Defense Department honored three MIS Nisei by dedicating three buildings to their memory: T/Sgt. Yukitaka Terry Nizutari, Honolulu; T/3 Frank Tadakuzu Hachiya, Hood River, Oregon; and Sgt.

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41. "MIS, Military Intelligence Service, 50th Anniversary Reunion, Panel Discussion Program, October 30, 1991;" *The MISLS Album*," pp. 12-15; Weckerling, "Japanese Americans;" Harrington, *Yankee Samurai*, pp. 341-342; *Fifty Years of Silence*; *Personal Justice Denied*, p. 255-260; *The Pacific War and Peace*; Anonymous, "Intelligence Observer with Task Force," Kwajalein, February 19, 1944, U.S. Marine Corps Records WWII, NA; Thelma Chang, "Secrets of War," ITT Sheraton's Hawaii, 8:59-64; Thomas T. Sakamoto, January 19, 1994, interview by Stephen A. Haller, NPS, Presidio Oral History Project; U.S. Army, *The Admiralties, Operations of the 1st Cavalry Division, 29 February-18 May, 1944* (Washington: U.S. Army, 1990), pp. 31-35.

42. Harrington, *Yankee Samurai*, pp. 309-310.

43. *Personal Justice Denied*, pp. 256 and 260; *The Pacific War and Peace*.

George Ichiro Nakamura, Santa Cruz, California. Thus did the Defense Language Institute at the Presidio of Monterey have its origins in Hangar 640 at Crissy Field, the Presidio of San Francisco.[44]

On April 24, 1945, as the war in Europe neared an end allied representatives met at San Francisco to adopt a United Nations Charter and to create a permanent UN organization. On May 7 the German High Command surrendered unconditionally to Allied forces. Two weeks later the United States Army issued an invitation to foreign military officers at San Francisco to a reception at the Presidio's historic officers' club where Maj. Gen. Henry Conger Pratt led the Western Defense Command:

The Asst. Sect. of War
The Hon. John J. McCloy
The Members of the U.S. Army Advisory Group
to the U.S. Delegation to the
United Nations Conference on International Organization

and

Maj. Gen. H. Conger Pratt
CG Western Defense Command
Request the Pleasure of the Company of

_____

at a Reception in Honor of the Officers of the
Army, Navy, and Air Forces of the Nations Participating
in the United Nations Conference on International
Organization

at

The Officers Club
The Presidio of San Francisco
on
May 22, 1945
6-8 p.m.[45]

On June 22, 1945, the U.S. Tenth Army completed the capture of Okinawa. An American B-29, *Enola Gay*, dropped an atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima on August 6. Russia declared war on

44. *The Pacific War and Peace*.

45. Haines Papers, Presidio Army Museum, PSF.

Japan on August 8. B-29 *Bock's Car* dropped a second atomic bomb on Nagasaki on August 9. And on August 14 Japan accepted the Allied unconditional surrender terms. World War II had ended.

During the war in the Pacific the Sixth Army under the command of Gen. Walter E. Krueger had participated in the battles for New Guinea, Bismark Archipelago, and Luzon and Leyte in the Philippine Islands. When Japan surrendered Krueger led his army in the occupation of Japan from August 1945 to January 26, 1946, when Sixth Army was inactivated. At San Francisco Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell, fresh from commanding the Tenth Army on Okinawa and serving as the military governor of the Ryukyus Islands, arrived at the Presidio in June 1945 to take over the Western Defense Command. In February 1946 the Western Defense Command was inactivated and early the following month Stilwell took command of the reactivated Sixth U.S. Army with his headquarters at the Presidio.[46]

It had been a tumultuous five years for the Presidio of San Francisco. In 1940, when war edged ever closer to America, army mobilization resulted in additional construction on the reservation. Fort Winfield Scott sprang to life as the headquarters for the coastal defense of Pacific coastal harbors. General DeWitt commanded both the Ninth Corps Area and Fourth Army that were responsible for the defense of the western United States. When Japan attacked, the Presidio became the headquarters of the Western Defense Command, which became a theater of operations. When Japan captured Attu and Kiska in the Aleutians, the Western Defense Command was responsible for the training and preparedness for battle of the 7th Infantry Division prior to its becoming the landing force of the U.S. Navy's North Pacific Force for the recapture of the islands. In the fall of 1941 the Presidio became the initial home for a military intelligence Japanese-language school whose graduates contributed greatly to successful operations in the Pacific. Early in the war the Western Defense Command became responsible for the controversial removal of Japanese Americans from the coast to inland camps. While the threat of invasion faded after

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46. Joseph Warren "Vinegar Joe" Stilwell graduated from West Point in 1904. He served in the Philippines, at the Presidios of Monterey and San Francisco (the latter on paper only, being on detached service elsewhere), and in France in World War I. After the war he studied Chinese at the University of California at Berkeley. At that time he purchased property at Carmel, California, and later erected a house on it. In 1920 with the rank of major he was assigned to Peking (Beijing), China, and in 1928 served as chief of staff of U.S. forces in China. From 1935 to 1939 Stilwell was a military attache in China and Siam (Thailand). Returning to the United States he activated the Seventh Infantry Division at Fort Ord. Two years later, Lt. General Stilwell commanded U.S. Army forces in the China-Burma-India theater and served as chief of staff to President Chiang Kai-shek of China. Unable to get along with Chiang, he was recalled to the United States in 1944, but returned to the Far East in 1945 upon the death of Gen. Simon Buckner on Okinawa. *Webster's American Military Biographies*; Tuchman, *Stilwell*, pp. 65 and 229.

the naval Battle of Midway in 1942, the Presidio's several headquarters continued to have responsibility for the successful prosecution of the war effort until, finally, peace came in 1945. Another chapter had been added to the Presidio of San Francisco's long, rich, and varied history.